

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are currently pending in the application. Claims 16-20 have been indicated as allowed. Claims 4-7, 10-14 and 24-26 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-3, 8-9, 15, 21, 22 and 23 stand rejected. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1, 15 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bullmore.

Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly claim the interconnection and utilize/disable operation of the configuring circuit. The claimed structure and operation of the circuit for monitoring is quite distinct from that taught by Bullmore, and on that basis there is no anticipation or suggestion of the claimed invention. Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 1 is requested. Dependent claims 2-15 are also now in condition for allowance.

Turning next to independent claim 21, Applicant has amended the claim to clarify the claimed circuit and its operation, in particular with respect to the activation/deactivation of the first/second circuits depending on whether the switch is normally-open or normally-closed. The claimed circuit is neither disclosed nor suggested by Bullmore and claim 21 is asserted to be in condition for favorable action and allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 21 is requested. Dependent claims 22-26 are also now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-3, 8-9 and 22-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bullmore in view of Youssef. Claims 2-3, 8-9 and 22-23 depend from one of base claims 1 or 21 and thereby inherit all of the limitations of their respective base claim. The proposed combination does not teach each and every element of the claims. Applicant asserts that claims 2-3, 8-9 and 22-23 are patentable over the proposed combination, at least, because of their dependence from patentable independent claims.

CUSTOMER NO. 30430

PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No. 03-C-058

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: April 16, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Andre M. Szuwalski

Registration No.: 35,701

GARDERE WYNNE SEWELL LLP

3000 Thanksgiving Tower,

1601 Elm Street

Dallas, Texas 75201-4761

(214) 999-4795

Attorneys For Applicant